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A GREAT WAVE OF CRIME.

It seems to me that I have never heard of so many young fellows going wrong in the same length of time as within the past few weeks. It may be that my attention never happened to be directed to the matter before just as it has been lately, but it looks as if a lot of young fellows are going to the bad just now.

Just why I do not know. There are certainly as many chances for bright young fellows to get to the front in legitimate lines as there ever were in the history of the country. I am inclined to think, perhaps, there are more chances. The business of the world is run by machinery these days. It takes intelligence and education, especially intelligence, to run the machinery. Therefore, bright, keen young fellows are more in demand than they ever were before. The young fellows who have been robbing banks and committing other crimes are reported to be rather above the average in point of natural ability. There was no necessity for them to commit crimes in order to make a living. They could have done far better even from a money point of view.

As a man gets older he takes more and more interest in young men. He knows from the observation that comes with years that the devil is the poorest paymaster and that the young man who works for him is always cheated. He knows how important it is that the young men of the country be clean and honest, for on them must soon fall the responsibilities of society and government. And so it may be that as we grow older we notice it more when a young fellow goes wrong.

Thousands of years ago it was written that the wages of sin is death, and there never was a truer saying. The young man who goes out to sow his wild oats will find sooner or later that he has been a fool. Wild oats is one crop that never fails. Drouths nor floods nor hot winds affect the growth, and he who reaps must help to gather the harvest. It is true that others who sowed not, who urged him to sow not, will bear a part of the pain of harvesting that crop of bitterness and failure and shame. But you,

young man, cannot hire a harvester in your place when the harvest of your folly is ready for the reaping. You must be there to help gather the sheaves and you will find them made up of thorns and poison weeds that will multiply your pain.

If there are more crimes being committed by young men now than formerly there must be a reason for it if we could only know. Possibly there is less of home restraint of the right sort. It may be that young men have imbibed the notion that they know a great deal more than the young men of the past generation, and that as a consequence they need less guidance and advice.

The other day a young fellow of only 17 or 18 undertook to rob a bank and murdered a couple of men before he got away. This was not Earl Bullock. His father was frank in his talk about it afterward. He said that his son was not insane, he was just mean. He had been permitted to dominate the family at home and was the selfish young tyrant of the house. Evidently his father and mother didn't know how to manage him.

I sort of imagine if he had been drawn across the parental knee when he was younger and a stout paddle applied in firmness and with vigor, but not in anger; and if the dose had been repeated at intervals when he was trying to boss the house, it might have had a salutary effect on him and he might have been made a fairly decent man. Of course, there is no certainty about that. A course of treatment that will work fine on one boy will not work on another.

Medical men are of the opinion that comparatively few children are moral degenerates. Most of them that go wrong have been spoiled in the raising. It takes a smart father and mother to know how to raise either a boy or a girl. Probably if you knew the parents well enough you would have a good deal of charity for the boy who goes wrong. His father or his mother may lack sense. Many people are reasonably good but lack sense.

Then there are a good many whitened sepulchres in this old world, people who manage to be respectable but who at heart are contemptible, dishonest, liars and scoundrels. There are church devils who have to be watched closely in every

WAR WITH NICARAGUA.

The published statement that only the congressional recess prevents a declaration of war against Nicaragua is in all probability a sensational view of the situation, but the fact remains that every addition to the details of President Zelaya's conduct makes it clearer that drastic steps will have to be taken to preserve the honor of the nation. The ruthless slaughter of Americans who have definitely proved to have been at the worst only belligerents, and as such amenable to the laws of warfare, is, according to the late dispatches, not the only insult which the present "pepperpot" executive has heaped upon this country.

One report has it that the Nicaraguan president is to abdicate, which would seem to be a decidedly easy way for him to get out of a precarious predicament. According to trustworthy information, scores of American citizens have been blackmailed and thrown into vile prisons, not merely because of expressed leanings toward the revolutionary cause, but for failure to contribute funds to the national treasury. Americans, it is authoritatively claimed, have been beaten like slaves of the olden times, and now in addition to all these savage violations of the rules of international law, official dispatches are said to have been received by the state department constituting a crowning and intolerable insult to the nation.

Making all due allowances for sensationalism in the news sent under circumstances which militate somewhat against dispassionate and accurate, enough is known beyond dispute to warrant the uncompromising and punitive assertion of the letter and the spirit of the Monroe doctrine and of the nation's honor. At the same time, it is to be hoped that diplomacy will solve the problem involved in the evident crisis and that not even such an opera bouffe war as a conflict with Nicaragua will be precipitated.—Kansas City Journal.

private business transaction or else they will take advantage of the parties they are dealing with. The concealed meanness of the old man in that case crops out in the boy who lacks the prudence of his ancestor.

There may be a mother who will slip in a few rotten eggs when she takes her hen fruit to market, especially when eggs are scarce and high priced. She will never do anything bad enough to get her into serious difficulty, but there is the principle of dishonesty which may develop in some one or maybe in all of her children. The sins of the fathers are visited on their children even unto the third and fourth generation.

This is a money making age. There has been a feeling that the chief concern of man is to get money, get it anyway that will not subject the getter to the probability of a term in the penitentiary. The style of living has grown vastly more expensive than formerly. Extravagance is the rule in all classes of society and it takes money to pay for the goods. People talk a good deal about the simple life, but most of them are wanting to ride in palace cars and automobiles.

To get money by the day's work seems slow to the young man who is ambitious to be in the social swim and a leader in the world. He can earn more than his father could earn at his age, but he finds it hard to pay bills out of an ordinary salary. And so if he has in him the germ of dishonesty, inherited maybe from his father or mother, he begins to figure on some way to get rich quick. He reads of stock jobbing,

of watered stock that is sold to the public on the representation that it has a real value. He concludes that crime doesn't consist in doing wrong, but in being caught, and that if he can get money any way and manage to escape the penalty he will demonstrate not that he is a scoundrel but that he is a shrewd financier.

And so he plans a crime. He fails to take into account the fact that there will be more people interested in punishing him than in helping to shield him, and so he gets caught. He realizes when it is too late that he made a mistake, but if that is all he is no better for the discovery. It simply makes him a more hardened and shrewder criminal. The next time he thinks he will not fall down where he did before and will get away with the fruit of his crime. He does not know that it is easier to catch a criminal the second time than the first, as a general rule. He is caught again and again and dies at last a felon.

Young man, it never pays to sow wild oats. It never pays to be a fool.

That is one of the most beautiful stories in all literature, the story of the prodigal son. It is the story of the love of a father who would go down to the gates of hell for his erring boy, but think how much better off the boy would have been if he had never gone away.

He had brutalized himself by his excesses. He had violated the laws of his being and never again could be the man he might have been. The old man could forgive him and take him home and seat him at the family table, but he couldn't give back to the boy the wasted years or repair the damage to his mental and physical powers. It doesn't pay, young man, to be a fool.—Mail and Breeze.

Delightful Entertainment.

The entertainment given by the Ladies Aid Society of the Presbyterian church in the opera house Monday night, was a great success in every way.

The entertainment was highly instructive as well as entertaining.

We were astonished that so difficult and complete a play could be so creditably presented in so short a preparation time.

A number of the singers and performers did exceedingly well, but we can only take the space to mention one, and that is Mrs. Fre A. Dennis in the most difficult character of Mary Queen of Scots. Her interpretation and presentation of this principal part was artistic and effectual. We would like to commend every one who took part personally, for all did well.

The ladies of the society are to be congratulated on the selection of this play and the happy manner in which it was staged as well as its financial success.

The lecture illustrated by stereopticon views given by Mr. E. P. Fitch in connection with the play, "Mary Queen of Scots," at the theatre Monday night, was pleasing and wonderfully interesting.

In place of being tiresome, as such lectures usually are, it was one of the most interesting features of the performance. Mr. Fitch gave numerous historical facts and deductions in a most pleasing and interesting manner.

AFTER THE THIEVES.

The government now seems inclined to get after the thieves of the great sugar trust. These fellows, it seems, have been systematically robbing the people and the government for many years. They are reported to have stolen many millions. The consumer got no benefit from their stealings.

Sold Out

Armstrongs sold to W. C. Griffiths. Stock sold at Big Sacrifice. Slaughter sale of the Armstrong stock begins Sat.

We have sold our entire stock to W. C. Griffiths and can recommend him as a good business man and one who will always give you a square deal. We regret to leave Chanut and wish to thank our many friends for their most liberal patronage and hope they will continue to still give their patronage to Mr. Griffiths.

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Having bought the Armstrong stock at a big discount, will start Saturday, December 4, a Slaughter Sale of all the Armstrong stock. We have bought thousands of dollars worth of new goods and some of it is arriving now. We must remodel the inside of the store and we must clear the shelves before we begin. We have come to stay—your interest is our interest; we hope to strive and gain your confidence and patronage by giving you a equal to any of the larger cities.

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